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nection with the Rhenish Museum at Coblenz. It has a few good pictures, three admirable and beautifully executed little maps, and gives an excellent account of the wearing of the Rhine gorge—Bingen to Bonn—by the river, all this in popular language and in a pleasing style. The valley has been in about the same place since Tertiary time. The relation of the older terraces to the present river flood plains is clearly described, as well as the upfolding of the Schiefergebirge by which the erosion of the gorge was caused. The relation of the various terraces to the glacial epoch and its stages is made out and a word given to the loess. Surely thoughtful visitors to the Rhine country will appreciate this excellent volume. MARK JEFFERSON.

POLAR

National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-1904. Physical Observations, with discussions by various authors. 192 pp. Map, ills., index. Royal Soc., London, 1908. 12 x 9½.

While elaborate and expensive final reports upon an important expedition are essential to the preservation of its full data, the time required for their preparation and publication is such that the more important general facts and conclusions have long since found their way to the scientific public. The lack of interest which they offer on this account is further increased by the "dry" aspect of pages of tables to each paragraph of summary.

Without reflecting in any way upon the value of this report, it offers little that is new, with the exception of a number of plates showing auroras and new views about the winter quarters of the expedition. The report is in five sections—namely, tidal observations in the Antarctic regions, 1902-1903; pendulum observations; earthquakes and other earth movements recorded in the Antarctic region, 1902-1903; Antarctic observations of aurora, 1902-1903, and Antarctic magnetic observations, 1902-1904. The writers of these reports include authorities of the first rank—namely, the late Sir George Darwin, Dr. C. Chree, Mr. L. C. Bernacchi, and the late Dr. John Milne. The value of gravity derived from pendulum observations at the winter quarters on McMurdo Sound is 982.985 (theoretical sea-level value, 982.963), as against 979.970 (theoretical sea-level value, 979.954) obtained at Melbourne, Australia. The interesting results of seismograph observations have already been published by Milne in other papers. W. H. HOBBS.

National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-1904. Meteorology. Part 2: Comprising daily synchronous charts, 1st October, 1901, to 31st March, 1904. Prepared in the Meteorol. Office, under the superintendence of M. W. Campbell Hepworth. 26 pp. of text. Royal Soc., London, 1913. 12 x 9½.

The publication of the physical results of the British National Antarctic Expedition of 1901-1904, for which the Royal Society undertook the responsibility, is completed in the present volume on Meteorology, Part II (Part I was issued in 1908). The results here included were obtained during the expeditions of the *Discovery, Gauss, Scotia,* and *Antarctic,* as well as on other vessels in the southern oceans, and at observatories in the southern portions of the southern continents. We have here, for the first time, a series of daily synoptic weather maps for the southern hemisphere, south of latitude 30° S. The period covered is Oct. 1, 1901–March 31, 1904. The charts are for Greenwich mean noon; they are printed four to a page, show isobars for each tenth of an inch, winds and temperatures, and number over 1,000 in all. Monthly summary charts are also included. The total number of observations charted was 44,893. The text, by Captain Hepworth, discusses certain conclusions as to the origin and direction of travel of the cyclones of the southern oceans, and calls attention to certain salient features shown on the charts. This body of material is obviously of immense importance, incomplete as the charts inevitably are, for we now have the opportunity to follow out, day by day, the movements of the far southern cyclones and anticyclones.

No one can turn over the pages of this important volume without being impressed by the enormous labor involved in its preparation, and without a feeling of gratitude to all the faithful observers who, often in peril and usually